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CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1944.

TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to again present a short Report of the Sanitary conditions of the Chard Rural District.

The District, in common with the rest of Britain, was working overtime in its efforts to ensure a speedy victorious end to the War. As regards the Council's sanitary activities, staff shortage prevented as much attention to sewage disposal plants, &c., as would normally have been given, but the essential services were still kept at an efficient level; the health of the area remained very good with no serious outbreak of infectious disease other than the usual ailments of childhood, from which no deaths resulted.

I am glad to be able to report that this was now the third year in succession in which the District was free from any notifications of Diphtheria.

List of Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in 1944.

| Disease. | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 32 | 6 | - |
| Measles | 163 | 11 | - |
| Whooping cough | 24 | 1 | - |
| Pneumonia | 14 | 1 | 6 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | - | - | 1 * |
| | | * Polio Encephalitis from the transferred death list. | |
| Erysipelas | 4 | - | - |
| Chicken-pox | 43 | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| | Total cases notified. | Total Deaths. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Respiratory | 13 | 4 |
| Non-Respiratory | 2 | 1 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | Male. | Female. |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Legitimate | 98 | 94 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 7 |
| | <u>105</u> | <u>101</u> |

STILLBIRTHS.

| | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate | 5 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - |
| | <u>6</u> | <u>2</u> |

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

| <u>Cause of Death.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | 4 | 1 |
| Other Do. | 1 | - |
| Syphilitic Diseases | - | 1 |
| Influenza | 1 | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis | - | 1 |
| Cancer | 11 | 9 |
| Diabetes | 1 | - |
| Intercranial Lesions | 9 | 16 |
| Heart Disease | 19 | 10 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 2 | - |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 4 |
| Ulcer of Stomach | 1 | 1 |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years of age | 2 | 1 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis | 2 | 2 |
| Maternal Causes | - | 1 |
| Premature Birth | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Causes | 1 | - |
| Road Traffic | 1 | 1 |
| Other Violence | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes | 13 | 16 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>72</u> |

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

| | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Under 1 week | ... | 2 |
| 1 - 4 weeks | ... | 4 |
| 1 - 6 months | ... | 1 |
| 6 - 12 " | ... | 1 |

Total 8 (Males, Legitimate 3, Illeg. 1)
— (Females, " 4, " 0).

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population - 11.5. This is average for England & Wales.

WATER SUPPLY.

The works for augmenting the Regional water scheme were completed during the year. These works include the construction of a borehole at Pole Rue, Combe St. Nicholas, the provision of a water main from the borehole to the Dommett reservoir and the construction of a 50,000 gallons reservoir at Combe Beacon.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new works were put in hand during the year. Labour difficulties were not quite so acute as in previous years during the War, and the sewage outfalls are in a fairly satisfactory state.

HOUSING.

There was still a certain amount of overcrowding in the area and a large number of new houses are required. The small type of old cottages in the district have deteriorated during the past 5 years and a good percentage are now beyond repair at an economic figure.

The Council have a first-year programme for the erection of 94 houses or bungalows, and it is hoped that it will be possible to commence work within a short time.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

C. C. COURT M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District.

14th September, 1945.

